

USDA/Rural Development

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News Release

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USDA ANNOUNCES FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Temple, Texas, March 5, 2002—Bryan Daniel, State Director, USDA Texas Rural Development, today announced that fiscal year 2002 funding is available through the Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program.

Rural Business Service, an agency that falls under the USDA Rural Development mission area, administers programs designed to strengthen the economy and infrastructure of rural areas. Through its support of the sustainable development of communities, USDA Rural Development works to improve the quality of life in rural America.

The purpose of the RBOG program is to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities by making grants to pay the cost of providing economic planning for rural communities, technical assistance for rural businesses, or training for rural entrepreneurs or economic development officials.

To be eligible for a RBOG applicants must be a public body, nonprofit corporation, Indian tribe, or cooperative with members that are primarily rural residents (any area in Texas that is not within the boundaries of a city with a population in excess of 10,000 inhabitants). Availability of funds is \$2.1 million. The size of grants approved is limited by the amount of program funds available but are generally \$50,000 or less.

For more information regarding the RBOG program, please call Mr. J. Pat Liles, Director, Rural Business-Cooperative Service at (254) 742-9780. The regulation for this program is available at: http://rdinit.usda.gov/regs/regs_toc.html (click on Part 4284 – Grants, click on 4284-G). Forms are available at: <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov/FormSearch.asp>

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Housing Service, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

